



**Minutes
Tempe Veterans Commission
December 12, 2017**

Minutes for the Tempe Veterans Commission Meeting held on December 12, 2017 at 6:00 PM at The Social Hall, 715 South McClintock Drive, Tempe, Arizona 85281.

Commission Members Present

Keith Finkle, Chair
Michelle Bravo, Vice-Chair
Scott Essex, Secretary
Troy Friedman
Patricia Little-Upah
David Lucier
Lauren Hyre

Commission Members Absent

Mario Aguirre
Michelle Loposky
Laura Skotnicki

Staff Present

Valerie Kime Trujillo, Deputy Human Services Director
Robin Arredondo-Savage, Vice-Mayor
Parrish Spisz, Council Aide

Item 1 – Meeting Called to Order at 6:15 PM

Item 2 – Public Appearances – None Present

Item 3 – Review and Approval of November 28, 2017 Minutes

Minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

Item 4 – Implementation Worksheet Submissions

There were no Implementation Worksheets for discussion.

Item 5 – Calendar/Event Submissions:

“Build us Hope” – Tiny Homes for Vets - Begin construction in December 2017 –
13th Avenue, South of Roosevelt

Stand Down – Phoenix January 28, 29, 30, 2018

Item 6 – Tempe Veterans Commission Composition Discussion

The original work group morphed into the current Commission. Now is a good time to take a look at the make-up of the Commission. What does the Commission want? Two new Commissioners are being appointed. Does the Commission want to make any changes at this point? Original City Ordinance structured the Commission. There has been a lot of work done, with some success. It is a time to look at the structure again. There was a suggestion regarding ASU, as an example – Instead of the Pat Tillman Center, should it be someone in general from ASU? As an example, should the language of ASU, be Steve Borden or APPOINTEE, or AZ Coalition of Military Families, or APPOINTEE? Pat Little-Upah was appointed under “Housing”, and Laura Skotnicki under “Health & Wellness” – Could they be reversed? The Commission has a Strategic Plan – Should we seek Commissioners who could help meet those goals, targeted individuals? Should the Commission be moving toward more generic membership, i.e. Veteran - “Tempe Resident”, At Large – “Tempe Resident”, etc. Should the “residency” be based on living or working in Tempe? Everyone seemed comfortable with that. Would the Commission ever have a budget? Not likely, as no Commission has a budget.

Suggested changes are as follows: “Division 20. Veterans Commission. Section 2-365. Established; composition. (a) There is hereby established the Veterans Commission to be composed of eleven (11) members. The commission will include a member from each of the following existing military and veteran service areas:

1. Arizona Coalition of Military Families (ACMF – OR APPOINTEE
2. AZ Department of Veterans Services (AZDVS) - OR APPOINTEE
3. ASU Pat Tillman Veteran’s Center – OR APPOINTEE
4. East Valley Veteran’s Education Center – OR APPOINTEE
5. Veteran Supportive Service organization
6. Veteran Health and Wellness organization
7. Veteran Housing Advocacy and Assistance
8. Deleted terminology of items 8-11, and replaced with...
9. Veteran
10. Veteran, Tempe Resident
11. At Large
12. At Large, Tempe Resident

Item 7 – Commission Officer Election and Voting:

There was a question of what officers are needed for the Commission, i.e. Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary (to keep the calendar & prepare letter to the court for). Or should the Vice-Chair pick up what the Secretary was doing and just keep the officers to the Chair and Vice-Chair? There was also a question of the length of time for the officers' position. There was a suggestion to write the ordinance to be flexible to allow for more years for any officer's term if needed. Could there be an option for a two-year term as an officer, with a renewal for a third year? Troy Friedman was nominated by Scott Essex for President, and Troy counter-offered to be Vice-Chair. David Lucier motioned to approve, and Michelle Bravo seconded. It was approved unanimously. Pat Little-Upah then motioned to make an exception to keep Keith Finkle as Chair for an additional year. David Lucier seconded, and it was approved unanimously. Michelle Bravo shared that her husband is likely to take a job in San Antonio, and she will be moving, so will not be continuing with the Veterans Commission.

Item 8 – Commission Member Announcements

There was a question of when "Valor on 8th" is opening. Someone mentioned there may be issues with the elevator installation. Lauren Hyre asked about gifts for the new residents. The Commissioners are interested in Supporting this project. There was a discussion of gift cards for the families, but it may be difficult to come up funding for 45 families. Lauren suggested cleaning products and food. Lauren will be follow-up with Valerie. If anyone has any other ideas or resources, please email Valerie at Valerie_trujillo@tempe.gov.

Parish Spisz shared that the Community Salutes is scheduled for April 30, 2018 at Tempe Center for the Arts. He invited the Commissioners and anyone interested to be on the Planning Committee

Item 9 –Future Agenda Items

- a. 2016 in Review – Strategic Plan Review
- b. Discussion of Chamber of Commerce Representative
- c. Upcoming Events and Activities
- d. Pat Little-Upah has asked the Director of the VA Medical Center to speak.

Item 10 – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm

Minutes prepared by: Valerie Kime Trujillo

Reviewed by: Melissa Placencia

Keith Finkle,
Chair, Tempe Veterans Commission